

FRESHMEN.

Who fill the College every year,
Foot all the dimers, drink the beer,
Attend each grind without a fear?
The Freshmen.

Who study hard, and fondly hope,
As with each bone and nerve they cope,
Their deeds will justify a "slope"?
The Freshmen.

Who in the manly sports excel?
(Their feats are known afar quite well);
Who ne'er 'gainst fair defeat rebel?
The Freshmen.

Who join in revel, swell the song,
Demand a right, redress a wrong,
And help a fagging friend along?
The Freshmen.

Who long to see the sessions close,
Bid fond adieu to friends and toes,
And long to welcome home's repose?
The Freshmen.

W. C.

OUR PHILOSOPHER.

A prince of the blood royal was three years after the battle of Leuctra brought as a hostage from Macedonia to Thebes. Of all that was worthy of admiration in military science, of all that was worthy of imitation in military organization and art, Thebes was then the metropolis. The genius of conquest was there, the conqueror of Macedonia was there, the victor of Leuctra was there, the Sacred Band was there. But Thebes was not long to remain the metropolis of that military genius and organization which had made her the mistress of Greece. Pelopidas was to perish at Kynos-Kephalae, Epaminondas was to fall at Mantinea, and the Macedonian hostage, who had learned at Thebes the art of war, was to close at Cheronon the career of the "Sacred Band."

The following old epitaph was dug up in the churchyard at Lydford, Devonshire:

"Here lies, in a horizontal position, the outside case of George Rutledge, watchmaker. Integrity was the mainspring, and prudence the regulator of all the actions of his life. Humane, generous and liberal, his hand never stopped till he had relieved distress. So nicely regulated were his movements that he never went wrong, except when set going by people who did not know his key; even then he was easily set right again. He had the art of so disposing of his time that his hours glided away in one continued round of pleasure, till in an unlucky moment his pulse stopped beating. He ran down November 14th, 1802, aged 37, in hopes of being taken in hand by his Maker, thoroughly cleaned, repaired, wound up, and set going in the world to come, when time shall be no more."

SCIENCE OF A CENTURY AND A HALF AGO.

In a curious and scarce folio, in the reign of William III., at the time Sir Isaac Newton was Master of the Mint, the following was vigorously and gravely taught and believed:

"Of occult sciences some shades are commonly accounted to be of a hurtful nature, and to cause either pain or some other inconvenience. Thus a *Serpent* sees the shade of an *Ash*, and those who sit down in shady places are to be overtaken with sleep. It is a common assumption among the cabalists that there is a great virtue in words. Upon pronouncing the words *Osg*, *Leva*, serpents stop their motion and lie still as if they were dead.

"The bones of animals are filled with marrow at the full of the moon, and crabs do more abound with flesh, whereas, in the wane of the moon both are dura-eyed.

"The skin of a stag, if it be put by *tanners* at the bottom of their vat, and the *hides* of other beasts laid, as soon as *water* is poured into it, never rests till it has got above them all at the top of the *tanners' pit*. Some plants have an antipathy against each other,—as the *Oak* and the *Olive Tree*, *Cabbage* and *Rue*, *Ferns* and *Reeds*, which cannot endure the neighborhood of each other, nor can touch one another without prejudice. It is commonly believed that a *man* who is seen of a wolf before he sees him grows *dumb* and is unable to utter a *word* or make the least noise.

"Tortoises, when turned on their backs, will sometimes fetch deep sighs and shed abundance of tears."

About the same time there were in the museum of the Royal Society these rarities, collected by Dr Grew:

"The quills of a Porcupine, which on certain occasions the creature can shoot at the pursuing enemy, and erect at pleasure."

"The flying Squirrel, which, for a good nut tree, will pass a river on the bark of a tree, erecting his tail for a sail."

"The leg bone of an Elephant, brought out of Syria for the thigh-bone of a giant."

"A humming-bird and nest said to weigh but twelve grains; his feathers are set in gold, and sell at a great rate."

"A bone said to be taken out of a Mermaid's head."

"The largest whale, liker an island than an animal."

"The White Shark, which sometimes swallows men whole."

"A Siphalter, said with its sucker to fasten on a ship, and stop it under sail."

"A stag-beetle, whose horns worn in a ring are good against the cramp."

"A mountain cabbage; one reported 300 feet high."

How strangely such things must have propagated error and perpetuated old erroneous notions!